

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MILAN 01056 140412Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SY-05 /028 W
-----011193 140428Z/20/11

R 111315Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6082
AMCONSUL TURIN UNN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL TRIESTE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL FLORENCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 1056

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDITIONAL TAGS: ASEC)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: IT PINT ASEC
SUBJECT: YOUNG POLICE OFFICER ON COSSIGA AND SECURITY

1. ON OCCASION OF VISIT TO MILAN OF COUNSELOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS KELEY, CONSUL GENERAL HOSTED LUNCH INVOLVING DEPUTY CHIEF OF FOREIGNERS' OFFICE OF MILAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (QUESTURA). WE FOUND HIM AND HIS REMARKS SO INTERESTING WE FEEL THEM WORTH REPORTING.

2. OFFICER, ABOUT 35-40, SAID HE HAD COME TO POLICE WORK AS SECOND CAREER AFTER HAVING WORKED TEN YEARS FOR AMERICAN ADVERTISING AGENCY. HE HAD JOINED POLICE OUT OF DESIRE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE.

STARTING FROM BOTTOM VIA NORMAL NATIONWIDE EXAMINATIONS. NOW HE WAS DISAPPOINTED. ALTHOUGH HIS CAREER AFFORDED HIM SATISFACTIONS, THESE TENDED TO BE OUTWEIGHED BY BUREAUCRATIC INERTIA, LOW PAY, OTHER FRUSTRATIONS, AND NOW DANGER. HIS SWEDISH WIFE HAD HAD ENOUGH AND WANTED HIM TO QUIT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MILAN 01056 140412Z

3. ONE OF HIS DISAPPOINTMENTS INVOLVED FORMER MINISTER OF INTERIOR COSSIGA, ABLE AND FORWARD-THINKING MAN WHO HAD RESIGNED BECAUSE OF POLICE INCAPABILITY HE HAD RECOGNIZED FROM BEGINNING AND HAD WORKED SO HARD TO CORRECT. COSSIGA'S PREDECESSOR GUI' HAD BEEN TRADITIONAL POLITICIAN WHO THOUGHT IN TERMS OF GIVING IMPORTANT JOBS TO THE WELL-CONNECTED AND WAS UNHAPPY WITH

SUBORDINATES WHO ROCKED BOAT BY BRINGING THORNY PROBLEMS TO FORE.
COSSIGA INSTEAD TRIED TO LEARN WHAT REAL, STRUCTURAL WEAK-
NESSES WERE AND TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM.

4. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF POLICE, AND IT WAS IN THIS CONNECTION THAT OFFICER HAD GOTTEN TO KNOW COSSIGA. OFFICER WAS PART OF POLICE STUDY GROUP FORMED BY GUI TO IDENTIFY NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS. UNDER GUI GROUP REMAINED WINDOW DRESSING. BUT COSSIGA TOOK IT SERIOUSLY. DURING DOZEN OR SO TIMES THAT OFFICER AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN GROUP MET IN ROME, COSSIGA WAS OFTEN PRESENT AND ALWAYS FOLLOWED RESULTS CLOSELY.

5. REVERSE SIDE OF COSSIGA'S INTEREST IN POLICE, EXPLAINED OFFICER IN REPLY TO QUESTION, WAS NEGLECT OF PREFECTS, WHOM HE FOUND ANACHRONISTIC. HE ROUTINELY CIRCUMVENTED HIS PREFECTS TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH POLICE COMMISSIONERS AND EVEN LOWER LEVEL POLICE OFFICERS. A RADIO AFFICIONADO, COSSIGA KEPT HIMSELF INFORMED DURING CRISES BY FREQUENT DIRECT RADIO CALLS TO POLICE INVOLVED.

6. RIDING BACK INTO TOWN IN CONSUL GENERAL'S CAR AFTER LUNCH, OFFICER CAST PROFESSIONAL EYE AT CAR'S ARMORING AND EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT WHAT HE OBVIOUSLY FOUND UNIMPRESSIVE JOB. HE NOTED WINDSHIELD WAS UNPROTECTED AND DOUBTED THAT SIDE ARMORING WAS SUFFICIENT. POLICE OFFICIALS WERE NOW BEING GIVEN WELL-ARMORED VEHICLES. HE HAD RECEIVED ONE RECENTLY. IT WOULD BE WISE, HE SAID,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MILAN 01056 140412Z

TO LET PEOPLE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT AMERICAN CONSUL GENERAL IN MILAN - WHOM POLICE CONSIDERED SECOND MOST IMPORTANT AMERICAN OFFICIAL IN ITALY - HAD SERIOUSLY ARMORED CAR AS WELL.FINA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MILAN01056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780296-0762
Format: TEL
From: MILAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780775/aaaackrn.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 97f6ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2052743
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YOUNG POLICE OFFICER ON COSSIGA AND SECURITY
TAGS: PINT, ASEC, IT
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/97f6ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014